

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07

/120 W

-----059969 121457Z /41

P 121324Z SEP 77

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2188

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0759

PRETORIA FOR AMBASSADOR CUTLER

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CG, PINS, P60V, PLAB

SUBJECT: SHABA'S LABOR PROBLEMS AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S VISIT

RER: LUBUMBASHI 0746

1) SUMMARY: LABOR SITUATION IN SHABA RETURNED TO NORMAL AFTER WORKERS AT GECAMINES KOLWEZI PLANTS AGREED TO RETURN TO WORK ON SEPTEMBER 8. PRESIDENT MOBUTU SPENT THE WEEKEND IN LUBUMBASHI AMIDST SPECULATION HE HAD ARRIVED TO FOLLOW LOCAL LABOR DEVELOPMENTS. SINCE STRIKE THREATS HAD ALREADY ENDED AND MOBUTU DID NOT APPEAR TO LEAVE HIS RESIDENCE DURING VISIT, MANY SPECULATED THAT REAL REASON FOR VISIT TO LUBUMBASHI WAS TO BE OUT OF KINSHASA DURING TRIAL OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA KARL-I-BOND. END SUMMARY  
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2) STRIKING WORKERS AT GECOMINES KOLWEZI PLANTS AGREED TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER VISIT BY GECAMINES DELEGATE GENERAL UMBA KYAMITALA AND STATE COMMISSIONERS OF MINES TAKIZALA AND OF LABOR ATIWIYA ON SEPTEMBER 8. INTIMIDATION WAS THE WORD USED BY ONE OBSERVER TO DESCRIBE WHY THE STRIKERS RETURNED TO WORK. GECAMINES APPARENTLY HELD THE

LINE THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS WERE POSSIBLE UNTIL EVERYONE HAD RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS AND WITH THREATS TO FIRE ALL WHO HELD OUT. NO NUMBERS ON ACTUAL FIRINGS ARE AVAILABLE.

3) PRESIDENT MOBUTU ARRIVED IN LUBUMBASHI FROM BUJUMBURA AT 1:20 ON SEPTEMBER 9. ALTHOUGH ONE GECAMINES OFFICIAL EXPECTED HIM TO GO TO LIKASI OR KOLWEZI ON CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKES THE PRESIDENT DID NOT LEAVE HIS LUBUMBASHI RESIDENCE DURING THE VISIT. HE RECEIVED UMBA SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, BUT THE IMMEDIATE LABOR PROBLEMS WHICH HAD SEEMED LIKELY TO DEMAND HIS ATTENTION A FEW DAYS EARLIER HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

4) DURING HIS VISIT TO SHABA "MJUMBE" NOTED MOBUTU RECEIVED TWO VISITORS: 1) MOROCCAN COLONEL LOUBARIS WHO HAD COMMANDED THE MOROCCAN TROOPS DURING THE SHABAN WAR AND WHO WAS NOT ON A MISSION FROM KING HASSAN TO ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF A MOROCCAN MILITARY TRAINING MISSION FOR ZAIRE, AND 2) PAUL KAUNDA SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT WHO WAS CARRYING A "PERSONAL MESSAGE" TO THE ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT. MOBUTU DEPARTED LUBUMBASHI ON SEPTEMBER 11 AT 0915 FOR KINSHASA.

5) CONSULATE COMMENT: THE LABOR SITUATION IN SHABA HAS BECOME TEMPORARILY QUIET, BUT GECAMINES LABORERS  
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WILL NOT EXPECT CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR RETURNING TO WORK. IF NONE ARE FORTHCOMING, FURTHER AGITATION CAN BE EXPECTED. BECAUSE OF THE LOW COPPER PRICES, GECAMINES IS UNLIKELY TO BE WILLING TO GRANT MORE THAN TOKEN WAGE INCREASES. ONCE GECAMINES WORKERS OBTAIN INCREASES OTHER WORKERS WILL DEMAND THE SAME, PARTICULARLY THOSE AT THE RAILROAD, THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT OF SHABA'S LABOR GROUPS.

6) THE PRESIDENTS RECEPTION AT THE AIRPORT AND AT HIS RESIDENCE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT AS CONTRASTED WITH OTHER VISITS DURING THE PAST YEAR, THERE WAS ALMOST NO ONE LINING THE ROAD FROM THE AIRPORT TO TOWN. WHILE THIS MAY BE INTERPRET TO REFLECT THE PRESIDENTS LACK OF LOCAL POPULARITY, IT IS MORE A RESULT OF THE UNFAMILIARITY OF THE NEW REGIONAL COMMISSIONER WITH MOBILIZING LUBUMBASHI'S CITIZENRY (IE REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO TRANSPORT THEIR WORKERS TO ASSIGNED PLACES AND TO PAY FOR THAT DAYS WORK ONLY TO THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT.

7) WHEN MOBUTU ARRIVED, HIS PUBLISHED SCHEDULED NOTED THAT AFTER BREAKFAST ON SEPTEMBER 10 THE ACTIVITIES

WOULD FOLLOW "THE PLEASURE OF THE GUIDE". NO DEPARTURE TIME WAS ANNOUNCED.

SEVERAL OF LUBUMBASHI'S MORE PROMINENT CITIZENS REPORTED RECEIVING PHONE CALLS BEGINNING AT 0800 ON SEPTEMBER 11 ASKING THEM TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE AIRPORT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESIDENTS FAREWELL RECEPTION. LUBUMBASHI'S TELEPHONE SYSTEM KEPT THE NUMBER OF WELL-WISHERS TO A MINIMUM. THOSE AT THE AIRPORT FELT THE DEPARTURE WAS HASTILY ORGANIZED.

8) WHILE AN IMPRESSION HAS BEEN CREATED THAT THE PRIME PURPOSE FOR THE VISIT WAS THE PRESIDENTS CONCERN ABOUT SHABA'S LABOR SITUATION MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVED CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS REAL REASON FOR BEING IN LUBUMBASHI WAS TO AVOID BEING IN KINSHAS DURING THE TRIAL OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA KARL-I- BOND. JUSTICE WOULD TAKE ITS COURSE IN KINSHASA WITHOUT ANY POSSIBLE ACCUSATIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INTERFERED.

WHERE BETTER TO SIT OUT THE TRIAL THAN IN THE CAPITAL OF NGUZA'SOWN REGION. NO ACTS OF THE PRSIDENT DURING THE TWO DAY VISIT TO SHABA PROVIDED EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.  
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## Message Attributes

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